

### **REMARKS**

The Examiner, in the Official Action, rejected claim 22 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over dePassille in view of Beasley for the reasons set forth therein.

The Examiner, in response to Applicant's previous arguments that there is no teaching or suggestion to combine the references, states that "both Passille and Beasley disclose postage stamps having personal images. Passille, however, fails to disclose providing a protective coating over the personal image. Beasley discloses that it is known in the art of postage products to provide a protective coating over the printed side of the final product of the stamp."

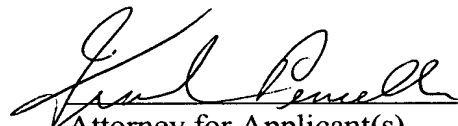
For the above reasons the Examiner has maintained the rejection. Applicant respectfully submit that neither Passille nor Beasley teach or suggest the invention as currently set forth. First, in the present invention, there are provided two sheets. The first sheet having an official postal indicia which is capable of retaining an official postal cancellation mark and then a second sheet having personal images thereon having a protective coating over the image such that an official cancellation mark will not be permanently adhered to the personal image. Thus, the present invention includes a combination of a first sheet where the official postal product is capable of retaining a postal cancellation mark and a second which is not. The prior art fails to teach or suggest the combination of the two together. Having the official postal products capable of retaining official postal cancellation mark allows the official postal product to be used as an official stamp for postage, whereas the second sheet having the personal image having the protective coating allows the image to be protected such that a cancellation mark will not detract from the personal image. Neither of the references teach or suggest the providing of the combination of the two together.

In addition, it is respectfully submitted that the Passille reference, which provides a protective coating over the entire sheet, teaches away from the present invention. In Passille the protective coating is not only provided over a personal image, but over the entire postal product. This is contrary to the present invention in that the official postal product is designed to receive an official postal cancellation mark. The providing of a protective coating as taught by Passille teaches away from such a capability. The providing of protective coating is

obviously designed to provide protection of the image there from. As Beasley states as column 3, paragraph 30, lines 10-13, a protective coating 120 is provided on the printed side of the final product so that the product can be framed. If the image is designed to be framed, it is not designed to be used as an official postal product for receiving of a cancellation. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Passille reference teaches away from the combination as suggested by the Examiner. Further, as previously noted, neither of the references teach or suggest the combining of the two items in a single stamp, i.e. the postal product having a surface capable of receiving a cancellation image, whereas the image to be placed thereon has a protective coating designed such that an official postal cancellation will not be permanently adhered to the personal image.

In view of the foregoing it is respectfully submitted that the claims in their present form are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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